

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /049 W
-----251711Z 038539 /47
R 251455Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4003

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, LY
SUBJ: ILO ACTIVITIES IN LIBYA

REF: STATE 3255

1. SUMMARY: THREE UNDP/ILO-EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTLY OPERATING IN LIBYA. THE PROJECTS ARE FUND-TRUST FINANCED BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELDS OF MANPOWER UTILIZATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND SERVICES. THESE PROJECTS ARE BADLY NEEDED BY LARG FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AND THEREFORE THE UNDP/ILO EXPERTS RECEIVE CLOSE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES. TWO OF THE PROJECTS ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE. ALL OF THE PROJECTS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE UNDP/ILO-EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTLY OPERATING IN LIBYA. THE MOST IMPORTANT, IN TERMS OF LIBYA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, IS THE MANPOWER PROJECT. THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO ASSIST THE LIBYAN MINISTRIES OF PLANNING AND LABOR IN SURVEYS OF MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR AND
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MANPOWER THIS PROJECT IS HIGHLY APPROPRIATE. THIS IS RECOGNIZED EQUALLY BY THE UNDP AND THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES AND HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM.

3. LIBYA SUFFERS FROM AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER. THIS PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY A HIGH ILLITERACY RATE

OF 65-70 PERCENT. THE ABSENCE OF EXPERTISE AT EVEN THE TOP MINISTERIAL LEVELS IS RECOGNIZED BY THE MINISTRIES AND THEREFORE THEY GIVE THE UNDP/ILO EXPERTS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE AND DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THESE EXPERTS ARE IMPLEMENTED AS PROMPTLY AS THE BUREAUCRACY WILL ALLOW. SURPRISINGLY RAPID RESPONSES AND DECISIONS HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR UNDP/ILO PROJECTS. THIS IS DUE MAINLY TO THE INTEGRATION OF THE EXPERTS INTO THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES, THEIR ACCESS TO MINISTERS AND THE MINISTERS ACCESS TO THE DECISION-MAKING BODY - THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRED BY COLONEL QAHAFI WHO IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

4. THE PRESENT MANPOWER PROJECT WHICH BEGAN IN 1976 EMPLOYS FOUR EXPERTS FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. IT WILL PROVIDE 192 WORKING MONTHS OF SERVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE PROJECT IS FINANCED TOTALLY BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND COSTS APPROXIMATELY 1.1 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS. SERVICES OF A SECRETARY AND A DRIVER IS ALSO FINANCED FROM THIS SUM. DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT \$20 MILLION ON UNDP/ILO PROJECTS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING AVIATION.

5. THE MANPOWER EXPERTS ALSO TRAIN LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR ALSO UTILIZES THEIR KNOWLEDGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR A PROJECT REORGANIZING LIBYA'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SYSTEM. SINCE THE GOVERNMENT IS VIRTUALLY "STARTING FROM SCRATCH" IN MOST AREAS OF MANPOWER UTILIZATION, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO LIBYAN CONTRIBUTION, TO THE DESIGN OF THE PROJECT. THE EXTENSIVE COOPERATION AND TRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT GIVEN THE UNDP/ILO EXPERTS IS DUE LARGELY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF IN THEIR IMPARTIALITY AS OFFICIALS UNDER U.N. AUSPICES WITH NO CONNECTION TO PRIVATE BUSINESS. THE UNDP/ILO EMPLOYEES ARE EUROPEANS WHO SPEAK FLUENT ARABIC. THEIR EMPLOYMENT REFLECTS TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNDP/IL RECRUITMENT. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS RELIED ALMOST TOTALLY UPON THESE EXPERTS TO FORMULATE PROJECTS, ESTABLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS AND PURCHASE MOST EQUIPMENT. MAJOR PURCHASES OF HEAVY, AND EXTREMELY COSTLY EQUIPMENT IS DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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6. THE MANPOWER PROJECT HAS HAD PROBLEMS GENERATING FROM THE BUREAUCRACY OF THE UNDP/ILO ITSELF. THE INITIAL PROJECT WHICH STARTED IN THE EARLY 1970S WAS ALMOST TWO YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE. PRESENT DELAYS ARE NO MORE THAN TWO TO THREE MONTHS. THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FACING UNDP/ILO IS THE RECRUITMENT OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS WHO SPEAK ARABIC. AS A RESULT, UNDP/ILO NOW DOES CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE PLANNING TO DEAL WITH THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS BEFORE ANY PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED IN THE COUNTRY.

7. UNDP/ILO'S LARGEST PROJECT IS THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM. IT PROVIDES THE 15 EXPERTS WHO DETERMINE TRAINING SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMS. 300 TO 400 TRAINEES RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR AS MECHANICS, RADIO AND TELEVISION REPAIRMEN, CARPENTERS, ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS, AND AUTO AND REFRIGERATOR REPAIRMEN. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE PROJECT IS HIGHLY APPROPRIATE TO THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS. IT HAS PRODUCED 2,500 SKILLED LABORERS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THE TRAINEES ARE IMMEDIATELY ABSORBED INTO THE LABOR FORCE. THE PROJECT RECEIVES MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WHICH BUILT VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS IN LIBYA'S TWO MAJOR CITIES AND SEVERAL LARGE TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE EXPERTS

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ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CENTERS.

THEY ALSO PLAN AND SUPERVISE THE PROGRAMS FOR THE VARIOUS CENTERS. THIS PROJECT IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. THE MINISTRY PROVIDES EVERY ITEM: EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE, HOUSING FOR EXPERTS, ETC. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY COOPERATE COMPLETELY WITH THE CENTER DIRECTORS BECAUSE OF THE VERY REAL NEED FOR THE SERVICES OF THESE FOREIGNERS. AS OPPOSED TO THE MANPOWER PROJECT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT IS ON SCHEDULE AND REPORTEDLY HIGHLY EFFICIENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS WHICH TEACH SECRETARIAL SKILLS AND BASIC ACCOUNTING. THERE IS NO UNDP/ILO PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT.

8. THE SMALLEST UNDP/ILO PROJECT IS A ONE MAN AFFAIR. A UNDP/ILO EXPERT ADVISES THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY. IT HAS EXISTED FOR TWO YEARS AND IS MANGED BY AN ITALIAN NATIONAL. IT HAS ALSO BEEN DESCRIBED AS SUCCESSFUL AND ESSENTIAL BUT BEHIND SCHEDULE. IT ALSO REPORTEDLY RECEIVES THE SAME COOPERATION AS THE OTHER UNDP/ILO PROJECTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TRIPOL00102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770026-1280
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770118/aaaaaqdq.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b43d08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 3255
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3502460
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO ACTIVITIES IN LIBYA
TAGS: ELAB, LY, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b43d08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009